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Indeed, this determination could not before now have been made. For until very recently, neither the Massorah itself had been collected into one body, nor had all the various MSS. of it been thoroughly collated. In the old days, when MSS. were slowly copied, and printing was laborious and costly work, those who ordered MSS. copies of the Hebrew Old Testament, or who printed editions of the Hebrew Text, secured for their books only so much of the immense body of the Massorah, as each could afford, or was willing, to pay for. Thus it has come about that no MS. or printed edition of the Hebrew Scriptures contains the entire Massorah. It is easy to see that a careful collation of existing MSS., and a gathering of the entire Massorah into one body, are necessary preliminaries to the determination of the true Massoretic Text. This work, we are happy to say, has at last been done. Dr. Ginsburg, who has given twenty years to travel, and to the study of the MSS. and editions of the Massorah, is now publishing the results of his labors, in England, in four large folio volumes. Three of these volumes are to contain the Hebrew text of the entire Massorah, and the fourth volume will give an English translation of those portions that are a key to the import of the whole work. It is hard to say whether we ought most to admire the patient scholarship, the indomitable energy, or the love for God's Word, to which this work bears witness. With no hope of pecuniary reward, the means for publishing this great work being secured through the generosity of pious and noble hearts, Dr. Ginsburg has given twenty of the best years of his life to this task, content, as he himself says, if he has thus contributed towards determining the true form of the Hebrew Scriptures. To such devotion, such piety, such scholarship, which God has given to the church in noble men all along the centuries, do we owe the possession of the Word of God in its present purity.

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**Old Testament Literature.**—Much, these days, is being written upon the Old Testament, much that is valuable, much too that is worthless. To so great an extent are Old Testament questions occupying the attention of the ministry and the laity of our churches, that the Reviews are, in some cases, almost entirely taken up with papers devoted to these or closely related subjects. Publishers appreciate the fact, and send forth volume after volume in this department of study. Nor are pastors behind-hand in this matter. It is a constantly recurring question: "Can I not afford to purchase this book? Must I not have it?" It is certainly true that money is spent in no better way than for books, provided, of course, the books are what they claim to be. It is safe to assume that of the books published in this department, not one-half are worth the paper upon which they are printed. But how is this fact to be determined? The publisher will naturally recommend his own publication. Newspapers, it is true, furnish reviews of the current literature, but is it always reliable and trustworthy? Is there any way by which a pastor, who cannot gain access to a certain book, may be informed of its value? It is in this connection, perhaps, that mention may be made of THE HEBREW BOOK EXCHANGE, which has just been organized. It will be one of the chief functions of this exchange to furnish information concerning books relating to the Old Testament or to the department of Semitic Study. If one desires to know the price, size, publisher, date of publication, or character of a given book, or

the general estimate set upon it, such information will be furnished by *The Exchange*. Its other functions need not be spoken of in this place. It is believed that the opportunity of obtaining such information will be gratefully welcomed by many book-buying pastors and students.

## QUESTIONS+AND+ANSWERS.

[*Questions of general interest, relating to the Old Testament and to the Hebrew Language will be published in one number of The Hebrew Student and the answers to these questions will be published in the succeeding number. It is expected that the answers as well as the questions shall be furnished by readers of the journal. The initials of the interrogator and of the answerer will be appended in each case. Readers are requested to forward to the Editor questions which may occur to them from time to time, and answers to such of the questions as they may see proper to consider.*]

1. What passages in the Old Testament contain the word "drive out" or "expel," as applied to the Canaanites, and also the word "destroy" used in the same connection? C. A. H.

[The writer of course desires the passages containing the Hebrew words so translated.—*Editor.*]

2. Where can I get the most *authoritative* and *exhaustive* statement about the early inhabitants of Canaan? Our mummied friend, Rameses II, waged war with the Hittites, the Egyptians afterwards were engaged with the Philistines; but in what period, and in what succession did the early people inhabit Canaan before Abraham became a Westerner? C. A. H.

3. In the Baer and Delitzsch text, there occur several cases where פִּתְּחֵי is found before פֶּתַח, e. g. in פֶּתַח Isa. III. 17. Are not these errors in pointing? M. L. H.

4. What is the force of the word אָמַר in Ex. II, 14. A. E. J.

5. What is the difference between the Qāl Passive Participle and the Nīph'al Participle?

6. What are some of the best books giving information concerning the manners, customs, language, etc., of the Egyptians at the time of the Exodus? S. C. D.

7. What is the explanation of the use of the point after Sh'vâ in נֶחֱמָר Gen. III. 6 (Baer and Delitzsch text)? M. B. L.

8. Does Gesenius' Grammar recognize the doctrine of the intermediate or half-open syllable? H. L. S.

9. I understand, of course, that when a final He is treated as a consonant, this fact is indicated by Mäppiq. But the question rises, when is it a consonant, and when is it merely a vowel-letter? H. L. S.

10. Why is ה written small in the word בְּהִרְאֵם (Gen. II. 3)? O. A. B.

11. What is the best construction of the words וְכָל שִׁית (Gen. II. 5)?

O. A. B.